

# THE TIMES-DISPATCH

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY

Business Office.....516 E. Main Street.  
Washington Bureau.....325-7 Munsey Building.  
Manchester Bureau.....1102 1/2 Main Street.  
Petersburg Bureau.....40 N. Sycamore St.  
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BY MAIL. One Six Three One  
POSTAGE PAID. Year. Mos. Mos. Mos.  
Daily with Sunday.....\$4.00 \$2.00 \$1.50  
Daily without Sunday.....4.00 2.00 1.50  
Sunday edition only.....5.00 1.00 .50  
Weekly (Wednesday).....1.00 .50 .25

By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service in Richmond (and suburbs), Manchester and Petersburg—  
One Week. One Year.  
Daily with Sunday.....14 cents \$4.50  
Daily without Sunday.....10 cents 4.00  
Sunday only.....5 cents 2.50

(Entered as second-class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.)  
Yearly subscriptions payable in advance.  
Published January 27, 1908, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

HOW TO CALL TIMES-DISPATCH.  
Persons wishing to communicate with The Times-Dispatch by telephone will ask central for "641," and on being answered from the office switchboard, will indicate the department or person with whom they wish to speak.

When calling between 6 A. M. and 9 A. M., call to central office direct for 4641, composing room; 4642, business office; 4643, for mailing and press-rooms.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1908.

## THE ABSENTEE SECRETARY.

Now that the subject has been definitely and aggressively broached, it is difficult to see how Mr. Taft can avoid resigning his portfolio in the Cabinet. His prolonged and chronic absenteeism seems to belong to that class of things which can be overlooked only so long as everybody is indulgently silent about them. But now the Philadelphia Press, probably the leading Republican paper of Pennsylvania, and a journal committed to the candidacy of Knox, is insistently calling for the Secretary's resignation.

The records show that Mr. Taft was in the West Indies for the month of April, 1907, that he was in Dayton, O., on May 3d of that year, at the Jamestown Exposition on May 7th, at St. Louis from May 25th to June 1st, in Dakota and Kansas from June 8th to 21st and at Murray Bay, Canada, from July 4th to August 10th. On August 18th he started off upon his trip around the world. He got back on December 21st, and spoke in Cincinnati on December 24th and in Boston on December 30th. Since January 1st he has been to New England, New Jersey, Buffalo, Ohio, Nebraska, Michigan and Missouri, his longest consecutive absences being during his two Western trips, February 7th to 15th and March 31st to April 13th. It is conservative to say that in the past year he has spent twice as much time away from Washington as he has in it. Pointed jests about the difficulty his clerks have in recognizing him on his frequent appearances at the War Office are cropping out in the press with unfortunate frequency.

Secretary Taft is a thoroughly amiable and estimable man, and one of high character and unimpeachable integrity. No one would care to stir up any kind of "agitation" against him. The report is that, when his presidential ambitions first took definite shape, he offered his resignation to the President, and the President dissuaded him from pressing it. If that report is true, the time has evidently come when Mr. Taft should be permitted to act on his original impulse. The people pay him \$12,000 a year to serve them as Secretary of War, and not to take the stump in behalf of his own canvass for a higher place. The other presidential candidates in office—Fairbanks, Knox and Cannon—are remaining consistently at their posts in Washington, and Mr. Taft's failure to emulate them places him in an unpleasant position which he should be the first to repudiate. Either the work of the War Office has suffered sadly during the continued absences of its chief, or else the portfolio of that chief is a superfluous one and should be abolished.

CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN.  
The political significance of Campbell-Bannerman's death had already been discounted when he tendered his resignation and Mr. Asquith stepped into his shoes. Indeed, "C-B's" virtual retirement was much earlier, for ill health had kept him little more than a name in Liberal councils since the opening of Parliament.

The late premier's rise to strong personal power as a leader was, on the whole, one of the unexpected things which proverbially happen. Certainly no such commanding position would have been foretold for him as long ago as the Boer War, when he stood with that fraction of the Liberals which tried to reconcile the policies of the imperialists with those of the Pro-Boers.

In our opinion, a war between Turkey and Venezuela would be about the proper case.

Moreover, the new styles afford the women the most boundless opportunities for talking through their hats.

Rooms at Denver will cost \$14 a day next July, but fortunately Hoke Smith can keep his boom in a linen closet.

As for obstinate Congressmen, why not battleship 'em east of Suez, Mr. President?

Probably if the Whitehouse does not want Taft, Cook's will.

A merry widow hat frequently implies a pretty gump papa.

Incidentally, who will give a whoop for Oyster Bay this time next year?

# the money power in New York

and further argues that the voter who does not instruct his delegate will practically disfranchise himself.

Why? Because Mr. Bryan has already 102 pledged votes, and has apparently in hand 657 out of a necessary 688, does he mean to say that the voters cannot be allowed to postpone their expression of opinion through their delegates until the convention assembles? How does that argue the "money control"? Looking back at his own spectacular leap from poverty and obscurity into wealth and prominence, recalling his own nomination by uninstructed delegates because he was the most available candidate, does Mr. Bryan now maintain that no delegate should be uninstructed because this course might be inimical to him?

It is noteworthy that Mr. Bryan, like Mr. Roosevelt, always has a pat explanation with which to dismiss any one who ventures to differ with him. Those who oppose Mr. Bryan are lumped under the stock designation of "powerful interests." Those who oppose Mr. Roosevelt are "reactionaries and undesirable citizens."

The common sense of the country, however, will not be likely to deny the right of free thought and free expression to the voters of both parties, be they Democrats or Republicans. If Mr. Bryan expects to be President, he could not well take a more disastrous course than that of adopting an attitude of royal displeasure to all who do not bow an unquestioning knee to his every preference.

## THE FIRST STRAW HAT.

What the first robin or the early crocus is to crescent spring, the first straw hat is to real or mid-spring. Each gives notice to all that that particular season has definitely arrived. In the case of the straw hat, the notice often elicits protest, spiritual or physical. Thus Charles Damarat, the pioneer Philadelphia don to the wicker lid, became the centre of a juvenile mobbing party, and now wears a broken nose as the price of his courage.

Straw hats in April are an incongruity, and the people greet incongruities of this public and open sort with smiles, taunts or blows, according to their kind. The man in the street has no use for novelty ostentatiously paraded. A straw hat out of season fares like the automobile in its earlier days, or like a glossy "stovepipe" on the unwonted highway of the backwoods village. Public sentiment is deeply opposed to "hugs," "sides," "posos," or any hankering for sartorial or millinery originality. But Richmonders, it seems, control their emotions better than Philadelphians, for the first straw hat was seen on the streets of this city last week, and no fatalities were reported. Yet even here, this gentleman's appearance doubtless elicited the time-honored quip: "Well, the girls always did put 'em on first."

Deep down in the heart of the average American man lies the thought that he must be, look and act, as much like his fellows as possible. The few who try to be, look and act "different" invite suspicion and court trouble.

"If Joseph G. Cannon breaks into the White House," begins the Cincinnati Enquirer—but there we pause, disgustedly, and turn to serious discussions about the canals on Mars. De Sagan's wardrobe and vital matters like that.

Jack London is being mentioned as the Socialist candidate for the presidency this year. If he is feeling fit, Jack can probably give Tom Watson as good a run for the tallied reservation as any man living.

"Envy," says the Washington Post, "is eternally getting into the seat of emulation." True, enough. Also, for its pains, envy is eternally getting a kick in the seat where it would do the most good.

The always amiable Washington Herald refers to "the more 'brassy' or 'modern'." Careful grammarians will wonder just which of our contemporary has in mind.

California, we are told, produced 2,000 tons of salt last year, but apparently this was not enough to do the proper thing by the tail of the bird of freedom.

In no other city in the world has the weatherman so many warm and loving friends as in Royal Richmond, the climate climax of the universe.

Judge Gray says that he is not a candidate, apparently confirming suspicions long entertained in Lincoln, Neb.

As far as that goes, there is no real reason why Alton B. Parker should not get a stab at the vice-presidency at Denver.

However, of course those who grew indignant over race-suicide at a certain august bidding need not look to Theodore to buy the babies' milk.

In justice to all, we wish to reiterate emphatically that Mozart died BEFORE Mr. Austin sicked his music on him.

Our English literature entitles us to claim as one of our nation's assets been seen to us as the fire by which we warm ourselves at the flame of the light. Now there are certain symptoms in English politics and literature to-day which suggest the use of the word "fumes" as being a thing of proportion to the heat and the light, and beginning to take themselves and their opinions too seriously. From the Outlook.

# Rhymes for To-Day

THE DREADNAUGHTS.  
W E may not have what countless ships  
The Spaniard's old Armada  
Yet Congress sails with firm set lips  
That Two will do.

Though Roosevelt knows the time is ripe  
To float four Big Ones on the blue,  
He has to put it in his pipe  
That Two will do.

Let Hobson shriek his battle-cry,  
And stamp the country through and through  
The handwriting is on the wall,  
And Two will do.

Let Sam shake her fists at us  
And threats break out in Timbuctoo,  
The Navy League need not fuss—  
For Two will do.

Though Afghans dare us out to fight,  
Though we are taunted by Peru,  
Though jingoes storm till they turn  
Still, Two will do.

I would to pay my taxes, Me,  
I'd hate to see them raised a few;  
Now, honest, people, don't you see  
That Two will do? H. S. H.

MERELY JOKING.  
Natural Conclusion.  
Patience: "This paper says the kangaroo sometimes leaps awfully fast."  
"Oh, are they afraid of mice, too?" Yonkers Statesman.

The Little Joker.  
"Papa, is there not such a word as 'ober' in the marriage service?"  
"Yes, but it's like the Joker in a deck of cards—no one uses it."—Houston Post.

Well and Good.  
Willie: "I say, father, what is the difference between 'well' and 'good'?"  
"Take his expression: 'It is not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a barn door, yet 'twill serve.' How well that describes a 1908 spring hat!"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The Guide Insinuates.  
Guide (showing places of historic interest in England): "It was in this room that Wellington received his first commission. Yes, sir, it is a fact."

A Clinch.  
Professional Fester: "I should like to undertake a fast of four weeks in this show of yours. How much will you pay me?"  
Showman: "I can't give you any salary, but I will pay for your keep."—Fillegende Blätter.

POINTS FROM PARAGRAPHS.  
NOW it is said "Japan wants to fight Great Britain." It is a mighty good thing for Japan that it might get all the money it is alleged to want.—Washington Herald.

Judge Harmon says Governor Johnson is a great man. Fair praise: the man who leads the Democratic party to his regular lickings is matchless.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Mexican newspapers need not worry. Uncle Sam never steals territory. If merely less Providence loss it into his lap.—The Commonwealth.

Ex-President Cleveland, too, is suffering from rheumatism, but he isn't thinking of taking any mud baths, as Admiral Evans is. Cleveland got plenty of the mud-bath treatment when he was in politics.—Ruston Globe.

John Sharp Williams referred to Congressman Hobson as a "young enthusiast" notwithstanding the subject of his remark is a veteran of one war, two political campaigns, and a kissing tour.—Dallas News.

There seems to be some slight objection in Washington to Senator Aldrich's prosecution of the old campaign of managing the United States.—Providence Journal.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.  
Married men of Belgium have two votes and the single ones only one. Priests and some other privileged persons have three.

Frederick Holbrook, Governor of Vermont during the Civil War, recently celebrated his ninety-third birthday. He is the oldest living ex-Governor.

# STATE PRESS

Dalsell the Spoiler.  
Gleaming with excess of tyrannical power, and delivering his threat with all the venom that is within him, Mr. Dalsell yesterday served notice that because the Legislature had shown up the inconsistency and hypocrisy of the Republican side of the House of Representatives there should be no legislation this year in the interest of any section but the Democrats to Congress. Mr. Dalsell spoke for Speaker Cannon and Senate Payne, and his audience seemed to be the only one in the history of the United States to be left out in the cold so far as the benefits of the nation's lawmaking body are concerned.

The South and West are deprived of the rights and privileges of legislation, and the North and East are to profit in consequence. Never before in the history of the Congress has the doctrine that the victors alone shall share the spoils been so shamelessly proclaimed, and never before has there been a policy of "divide and conquer" so half the nation only.—Alexandria Gazette.

One and All.  
The fact that Mr. Bryan actively lent his influence in getting enough Democratic Senators to vote with the Republicans to carry the ratification of the treaty of Paris, whereby the Philippine Islands were ceded by Spain to the United States, estops him from criticizing the action of the Republican party in that connection.

Seen With the Argus Eye.  
Some people claiming to be Democrats are doing as the old ad says, "as they see." They are making fools of themselves. We see them, with prospects brighter than since Clever's triumph before, persisting in their dastardly work of wronging the people who say their party.—Augusta County Argus.

Better Supervision of Banks.  
One thing is certain: Agitation is going to continue until relief is provided, whether the banks suffer as a result or not. It is better that there should be a little suffering of their own folk in the district created than that innocent depositors should be forced and robbed by loose or dishonest banking methods.—Danville Register.

A Republican Dilemma.  
There is one fact made actually plain by the Republican record in the House of Representatives, and that is, that any bill which the House of Representatives really want passed can be passed. The Republicans have passed a bill with only one roll call. That fact demonstrates all that the Democratic party has to say about the "Republican" intended to demonstrate. The Republicans do not pass the reform and remedial legislation recommended by the President. It must be the Democrats who must prove it. On the stump next fall, how can the Republican members defend their course?

Seen in the Light.  
Outside of the shadow that Bryan casts over the Democracy, the fitness and availability of Governor Johnson, of Minnesota, are more generally seen and appreciated.—Petersburg Index-Appeal.

Important, if True.  
A wireless dispatch received by the Journal today was used as a shipbuilding material was in 1855, when a small boat made of it was exhibited at the Paris Exhibition by a Frenchman named "Gabbellini." The boat was a small affair, was constructed of wire netting covered with cement.

An Ocean-Goin' Barge.  
Unusual interest was taken by sailors and landlubbers in the huge Standard Oil Company barge, the "Navahoe," of the Standard Oil Company, which was in port here last night. The barge is now on her way to England with 200,000 tons of oil, her average cargo.

Work and Nationality.  
"I can get an English coachman a place twice as quickly as a German or a Yankee coachman," said an emigrant from the old country. I find, it is supposed to turn out one kind of workman of peculiar excellence. Thus England's specialty is the stableman, France's is the chef, and Switzerland's is the watchmaker.

Wives Travel Half-Price.  
Under a new Norwegian railway regulation, a husband and wife are traveling together, and the wife is allowed to travel half-price. The idea may be a good one, but it is not a new one. The theory that a woman who marries leaves her husband at home with reduced rates is a theory that is as old as the hills.

Dinner at Home.  
It is a relief to be able to record that the private dinner is by degrees supplanting the vogue of the restaurant, which a while ago seemed to bid fair to engulf the home life of the country. It is a relief to be able to record that the private dinner is by degrees supplanting the vogue of the restaurant, which a while ago seemed to bid fair to engulf the home life of the country.

Covered His Tracks.  
Mother: "You and Willy have been at my cherry tree. I found the stones in the nursery."  
John: "It wasn't me, mother. 'Cause I swallowed the stones of mine."—Frankfort Wuzzblatt.

The Open Window.  
Children brought up with open windows appear, indeed, to be about fifteen times more likely to contract adenoids than those who sleep with the window closed. The reason is that the open window allows the cold air to enter the room, and the cold air enters the room, and the cold air enters the room.

The Worm Turns.  
She built a gown.  
Expends three hundred dollars.  
Can't buy the worm.  
And turns his cuffs and collar.  
—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Also to Wellman.  
That theory that the North Pole is shifting ought to bring comfort to Peary. All it does is to go around to the other side of the globe.—From the Pittsburgh Dispatch.

No Rule Against.  
Chancellor Day still asserts that there is no rule against a man's marrying his mother-in-law.—From the New York Evening Post.

Madness or Genius?  
The difference between a heaven-born genius and a madman is success or failure. A man may do anything he pleases, as if he succeeds he is called a genius, for he was wise enough to see success where little minds could only fail failure; but let him fail in his mad scheme, and he is called a madman. A Maurice Low in the April Forum.

Many old houses in Holland have a special door which is never opened save on special occasions, when there is a marriage or death in the family. The door is made of iron and is so heavy that it is often nailed or bolted up until a death occurs, when it is opened and the body removed by the exit-truth.

# Voice of the People

The One-Room Country School.  
Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
Sir,—It has been the custom throughout Southside Virginia for a lady to teach the one-room country school, but here and there is found a male teacher. A country school where there are two teachers it may not be amiss that one should be a man, but to parents who are alive to a sense of guardianship over their daughters, there is a question no less moral than that of expediency.

The country schoolhouse is usually open on the public roadside or in the woods, and sometimes both of these facts are true of the school. Here is the objective half of the question. Now let the wise and sympathetic parent consider the subjective (the vital) half of this question.

We are all aware of the physical difference in mechanism and construction of the sexes, but all of us do not at all times seem to bear in mind that the intellectual differentiation is no less marked and definite. The soul of a woman is of finer texture. When attending the country school the girls are away from home from seven to eight hours. This is a long while for a girl to be from under feminine influence, eye, and sympathy. The apartment that is not understood by the man; and should it be, it could not be answered. This is fixed, and must ever be, for it is according to the "eternality of things." This is peculiar in the character of woman's priceless endowment, and even in her embryonic stage the outlines are clearly marked. The girl, with her essential timidity, must not be robbed of that care (for which there is no substitute) providentially preceding her advent here. That guardianship for the protection and development of the finer qualities of her soul, God made one woman and had her antecedent with a guardian.

This word is spoken with an eye to timeliness. The State school system of Virginia is an evolutionary stage. During such periods precedent may be unconsciously established and an irremediable loss entailed. If the genius of Napoleon demanded the mothers to steer the boys of France, all Christian patriotism, 100 years later, the mothers of the girl to voyage on a wider sea. We must allow and trespass upon that peculiar property of soul God has given the girl; we cannot wish to have our sensibilities irritated by that howling loss of our own. Virginia should, and forever claim itself of this one factor contributing to that loss.

Holly Dale, Virginia.

SHIPS OF CONCRETE.  
Miracles of the Prophet's Floating Ark Revived.  
Italy, according to present indications, will soon use as a shipbuilding material was in 1855, when a small boat made of it was exhibited at the Paris Exhibition by a Frenchman named "Gabbellini." The boat was a small affair, was constructed of wire netting covered with cement.

It was not until 1896 that the matter was taken up again, and then an Italian named Gabbellini constructed several concrete vessels of about 120 tons each. The vessels are still in use on the Italian rivers.

Some years later the Italian government gave instructions for an experimental boat to be built of concrete. This boat, of 120 tons, was built by Gabbellini and was subjected to severe tests. It was found to be as strong as a much larger iron vessel with a sharp ram directed against it, but no impression was produced on or damage done to the concrete.

The general method of construction is as follows: The frames and longitudinal beams are made of concrete and the skin consists of a single or double layer of concrete stiffened with wire netting, and made perfectly smooth and watertight by an internal coat of pure cement.

The boats cost almost nothing for maintenance, are fireproof, and about half as much as iron vessels of the same capacity.

An Italian engineer, Signor Adada, has been successful in convincing the Italian government for the use of concrete armor on warships, and a series of trials to test the resisting power of concrete armor is about to be made.—London Express.

Fireproof Cities.  
The day may come when there will be no wooden tenements, no wooden-trimmed buildings of any description in our cities. That will be the millennium of the city, the millennium of the city, the millennium of the city.

Guarding Against Rats.  
Although there are now no cases of plague in Pacific coast ports, there is no relaxation of the precaution against the disease. The secretary of the Washington State Board of Health recently asked the Mayor of Seattle to order that "all vessels shall breast off from the dock at least six feet by means of a float or by spars, and that on all lines or spars passing from the vessel to the dock metal rat guards, at least two feet in diameter, shall be placed in such a manner that they will tightly encircle the lines or spars, and that the face of such rat guards shall be at least six feet from the lines or spars, and that all gantries shall be raised or guarded when not in use."—Kansas City Journal.

Long Terms in Supreme Court.  
Few members of the Supreme Court have exceeded the time Justice Harlan has served—thirty years. Justice Field served about thirty-four and a half years. Justice Brandeis served thirty-two years, and Justice McLean thirty-two years—everywhere.

Madness or Genius?  
The difference between a heaven-born genius and a madman is success or failure. A man may do anything he pleases, as if he succeeds he is called a genius, for he was wise enough to see success where little minds could only fail failure; but let him fail in his mad scheme, and he is called a madman. A Maurice Low in the April Forum.

Many old houses in Holland have a special door which is never opened save on special occasions, when there is a marriage or death in the family. The door is made of iron and is so heavy that it is often nailed or bolted up until a death occurs, when it is opened and the body removed by the exit-truth.

# A Laxative that is as Harmless as Food

If you ate plenty of fruit, coarse food and green vegetables, the bowels would never need help.  
But when you eat fine food, and rich food, you must supply the laxative in some other way.  
Do it in Nature's way.  
Don't employ salts or pill cathartics, for they violate Nature. They irritate and injure the stomach and bowels.  
Nearly all dyspepsia—all constipation is caused by the use of harsh physic.

Cascarets—a vegetable laxative—have precisely the same effect as a laxative food.  
You know they don't harm you because they don't gripe.  
They do for the bowels just what right living would do. And they do it as gently and naturally.  
You can take them any hour of the day. And that is the proper method. Carry them with you. Take one just as soon as you need it.  
That is the way to keep well at all times, without the ill effects of a physic.

Cascarets are candy tablets. They are sold by all druggists, but never in bulk. Be sure to get the genuine, with C.C. on every label. The box is marked like this.

The best-kept box is 10 cents. The month-treatment box 50 cents. 12,000 boxes sold annually.

The Guilds of Japan

gushing apparel. This fact was brought out on one occasion when an attempt was made to frustrate the approach of some pedestrians. The footpads made off in such haste that one of them lost his shoe. The policeman, who was over the top of the shoe and said: "I can tell from certain marks on this shoe that the men belonged to the robbers' guild."

The stevedores have one of the oldest guilds and one of the largest membership. There are over 3,000 of them in Yokohama alone. While their work cannot be classified as skilled labor, and they have no written rules at all, yet they hold together so well that they can boast of never having lost a strike. Their guild makes good money, and it is a common sight to see a day, together with their noon meal, consisting of fish and rice. The last time they struck for higher wages was given an advance of 3 1/2 cents a day. Their employers say that they will work the hours of 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. anything they can get their hands on and will never fail to lie in preference to telling the truth.

While the government gives no official recognition to the guilds, it is known to be assisting financially and supplying some of them, particularly those in the weaving industries. When left to themselves the independent concerns turn out varying styles and grades of goods, and have to make their own market, thus wasting much of their energy from a lack of concerted effort. By fixing upon certain staple grades and standards, the guilds, acting agent, the general standard of the output will not only be raised, but the market can be approached to much better advantage on account of the unity of purpose.

Information about the guilds is most difficult to obtain. One hears of a high government official conferring with the leaders, and there are rumors of subsidies being granted upon certain conditions, but there can be no confirmation of these reports. Even the most ordinary matters are hedged about with secrecy, and the guilds are never told if a half-truth will suffice. All this evasion and indirection is an ingrained characteristic of the people. While the guilds are the feudal practices of ancient days.

In the time of the clans the members of the guilds were bound to endeavor to keep their affairs from their rivals, and to that end used every device their cunning could invent. The guilds are now a thing of the past, but the old order of things, the hereditary traits of race, and the sense of duty, even the most trivial matters concerning the individual are still hidden under a mantle of concealment. Even the Japanese government, claiming the right to stand among the powers and asking their frank consideration, before its affairs are placed before the world, devious ways as if the other nations, whose confidence and co-operation it solicits, were playing a game of hide-and-seek, either be kept in the dark or purposefully misled.

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